Archie
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NO. 91 FEB.
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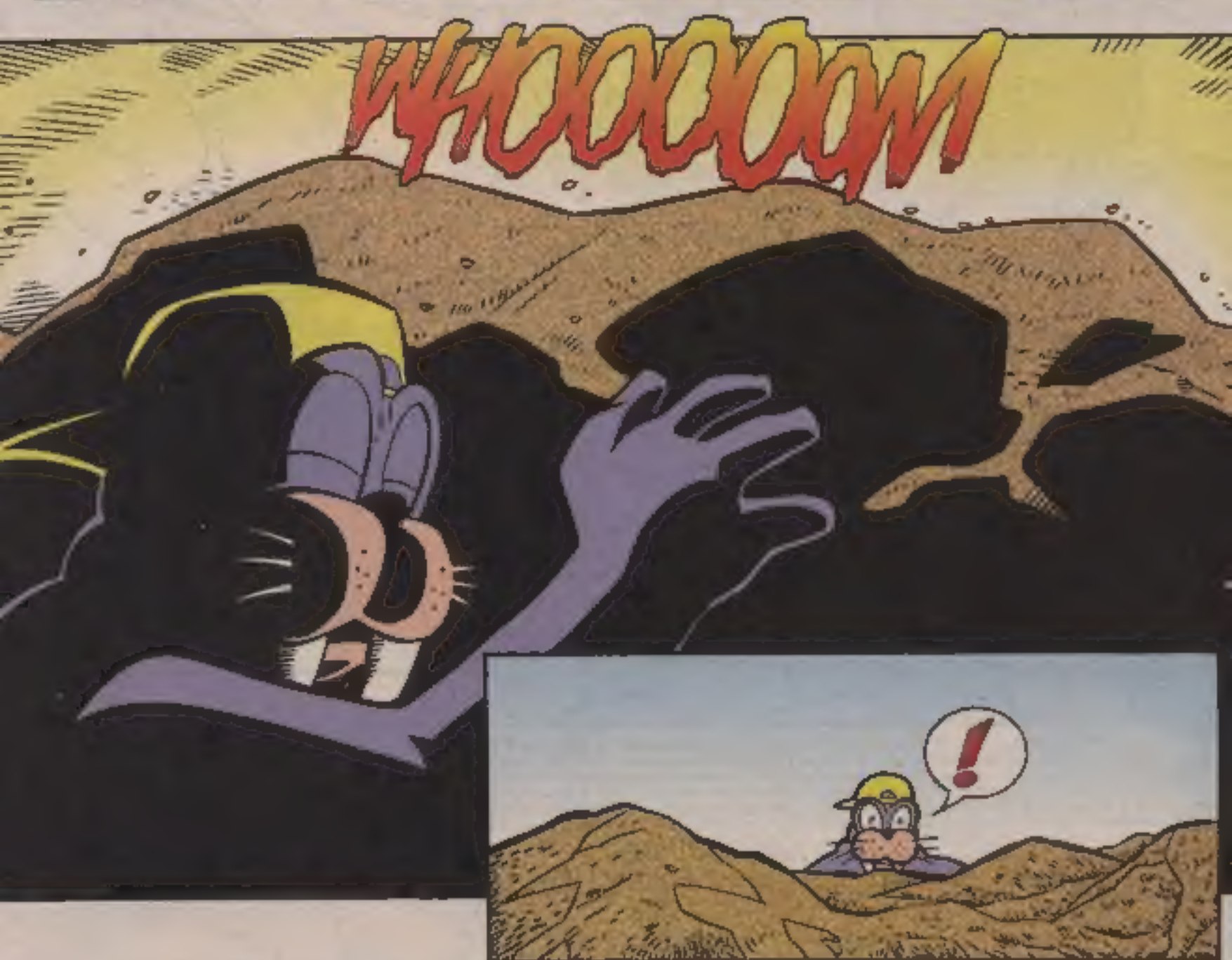
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DIRECT EDITION
SPAZ
PENDERS

IN THE FORBIDDEN ZONE...
JUST A BIT FURTHER, AND I'LL BE HOME IN KNOT--

--HOLEY--


WHOOOOOM
!

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

CRASH!

WOW!

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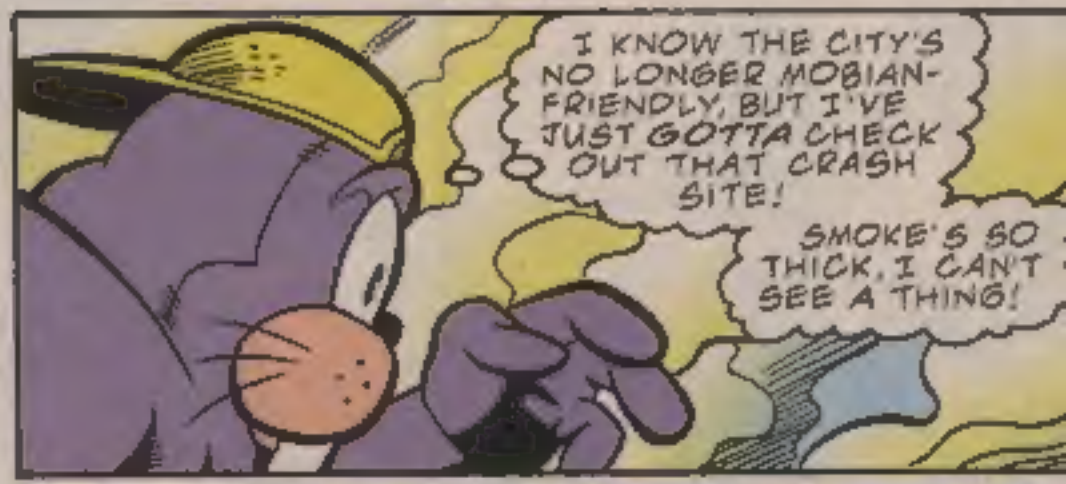
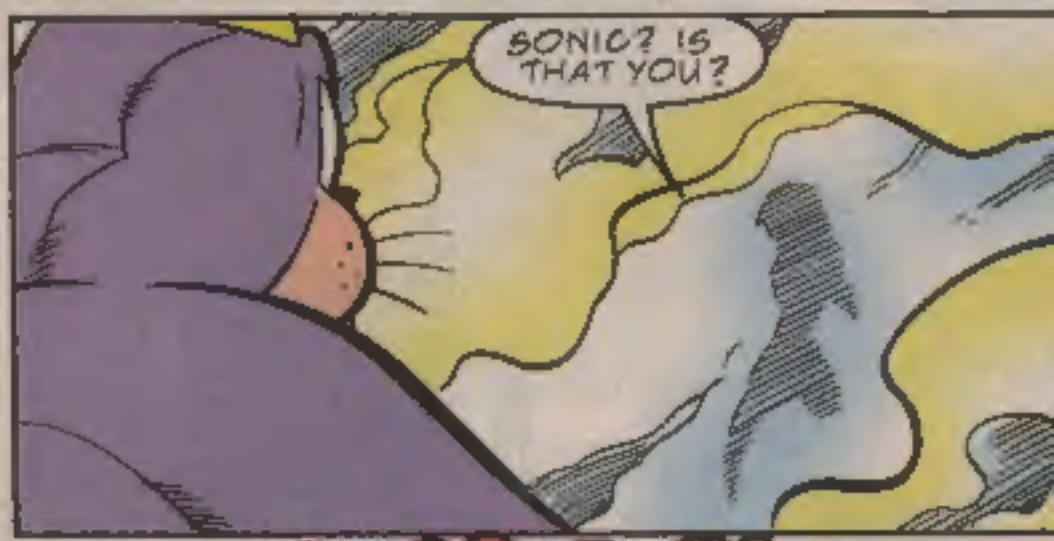
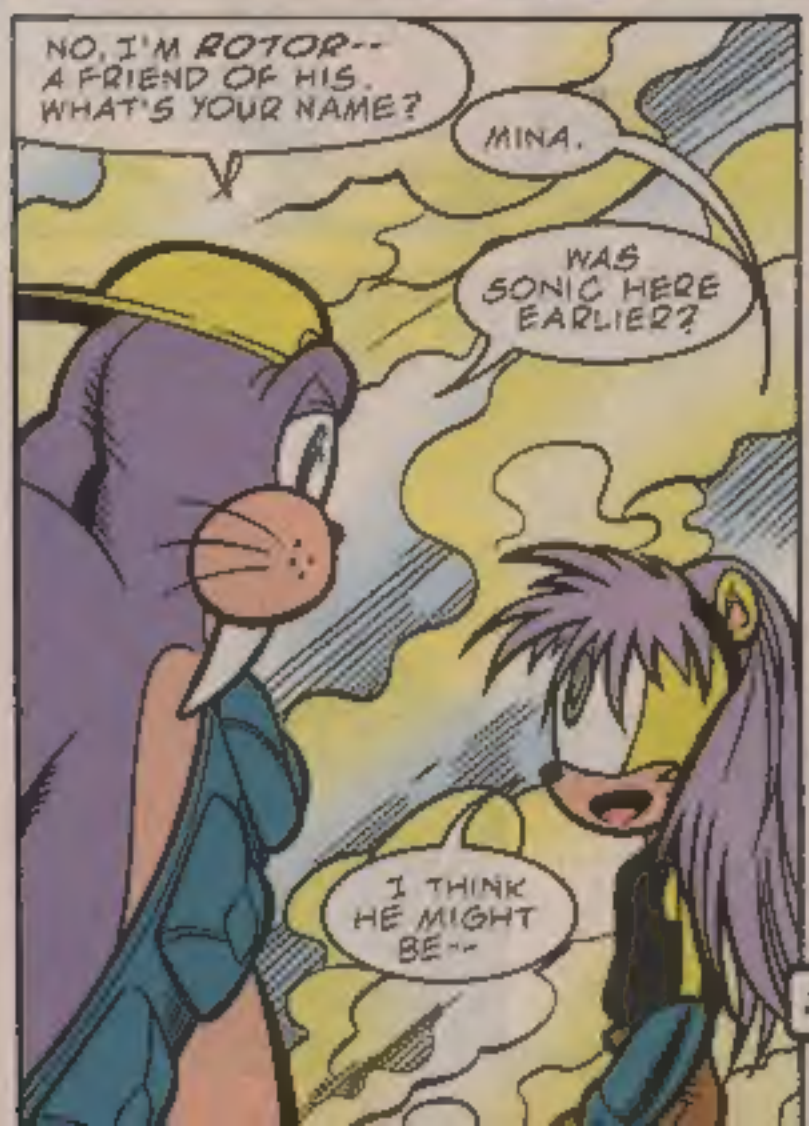
IF NOT FOR THAT PROTECTIVE ENERGY-DOME, ROBOTROPOLIS WOULD'VE BEEN STRUCK BY THOSE METEORITES!

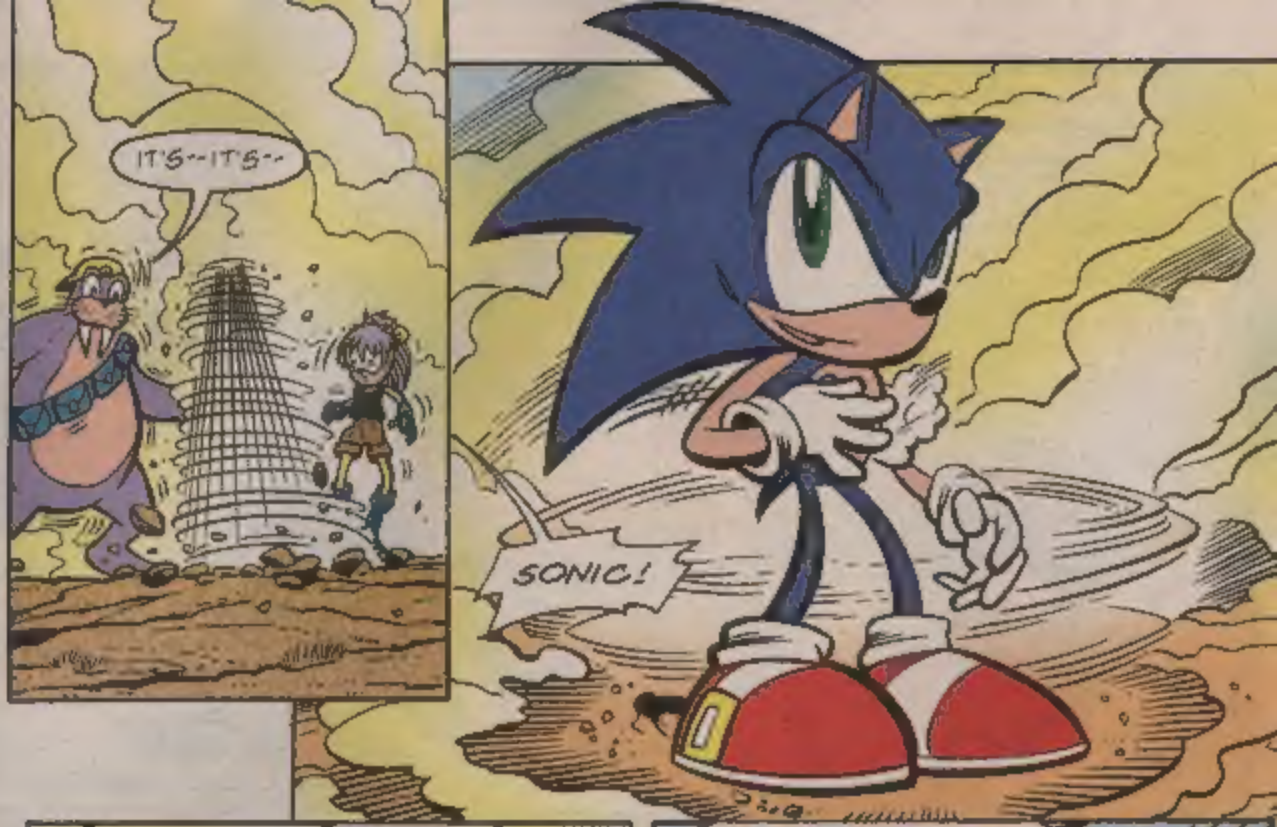

I KNOW THE CITY'S NO LONGER MOBIAN-FRIENDLY, BUT I'VE JUST GOTTA CHECK OUT THAT CRASH SITE!
SMOKE'S SO THICK, I CAN'T SEE A THING!

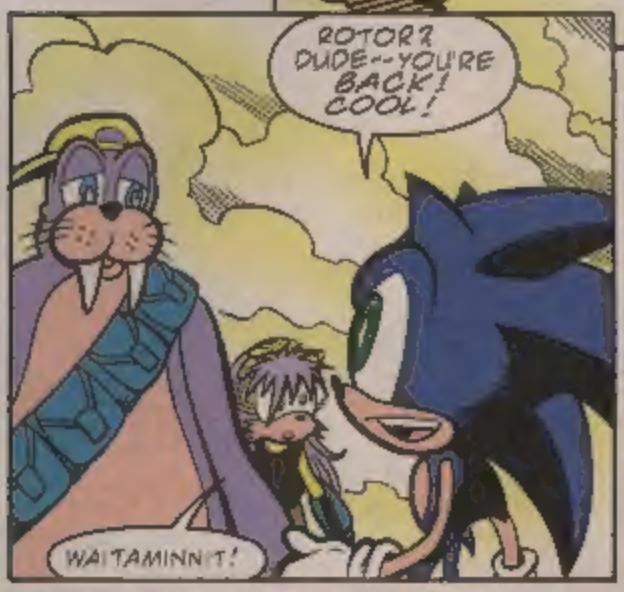
SONIC!
SONIC!


SONIC? IS THAT YOU?

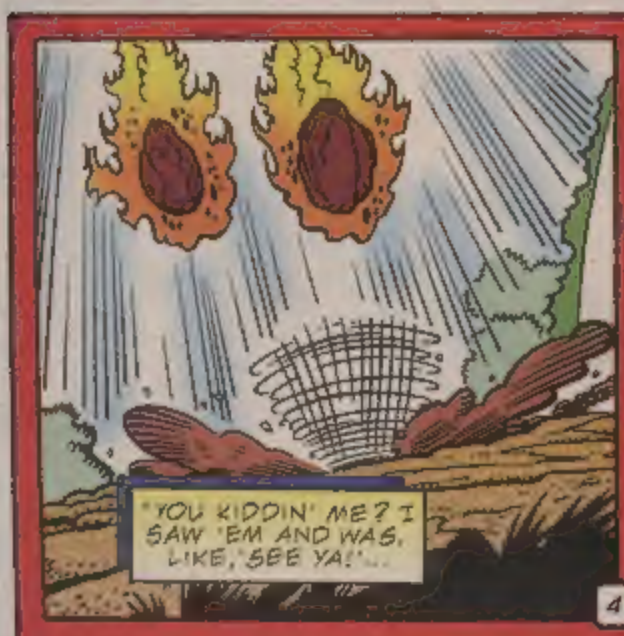

NO, I'M ROTOR-- A FRIEND OF HIS. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MINA.
WAS SONIC HERE EARLIER?
I THINK HE MIGHT BE--

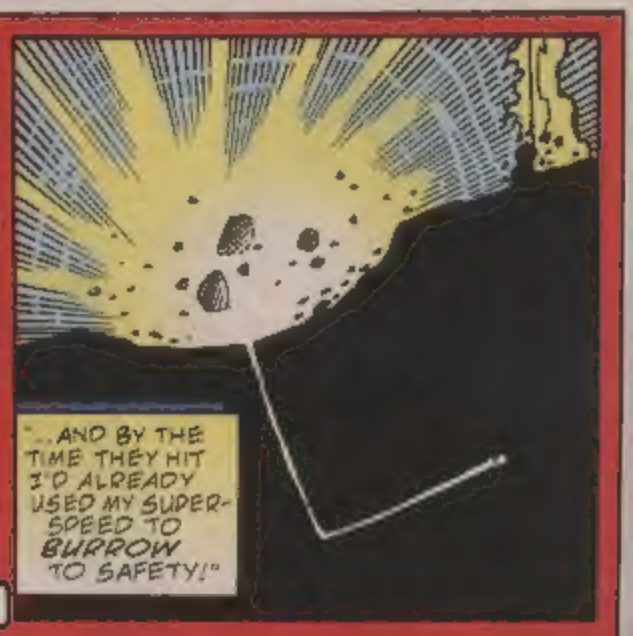
RRRMMMBBLL
WHAT NOW?


IT'S--IT'S--
SONIC!


ROTOR? DUDE--YOU'RE BACK! COOL!
WAITAMINNIT!

IS THAT IT? TWO GIANT... THINGIES FALL FROM THE SKY AND YOU SAY "COOL"? HOW'D YOU SURVIVE?


"YOU KIDDIN' ME? I SAW 'EM AND WAS, LIKE, 'SEE YA!'...


"...AND BY THE TIME THEY HIT I'D ALREADY USED MY SUPER-SPEED TO BURROW TO SAFETY!"

DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S BASE...

NOW THAT THOSE METEORITES HAVE FALLEN -- AND KILLED SONIC TO BOOT -- I CAN SHUT OFF MY ENERGY-SHELL...

...AND SEE IF THIS "SWORD OF ACORNS" COULD ACTUALLY RESTORE MOBIAN FREE WILL!

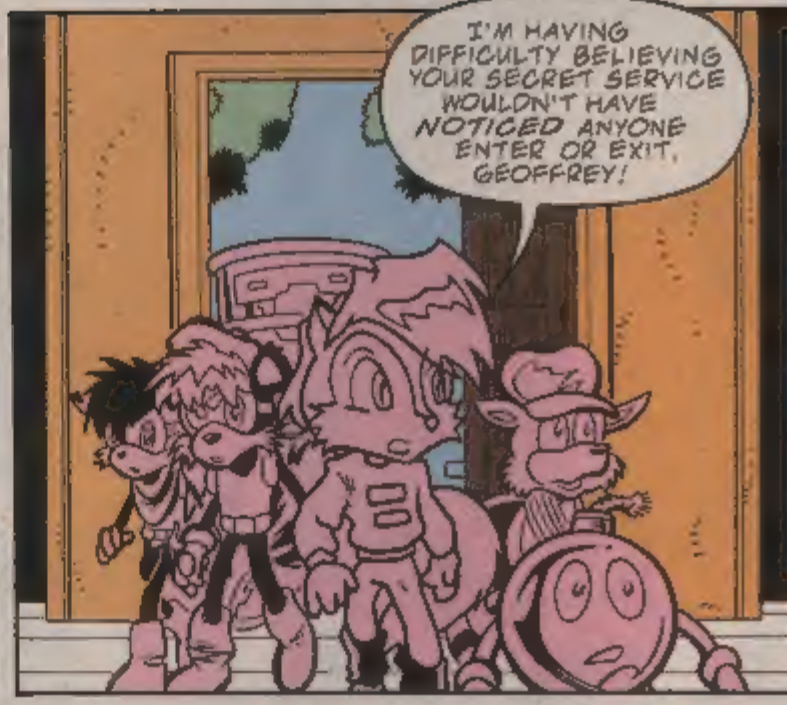
AAARRRGGGHH! USELESS! IT'S USELESS! MY PRECIOUS COM-BOTS -- INCINERATED IN VAIN!

I'LL MAKE SONIC PAY FOR THIS BY STRIKING DOWN HIS BELOVED UNCLE!

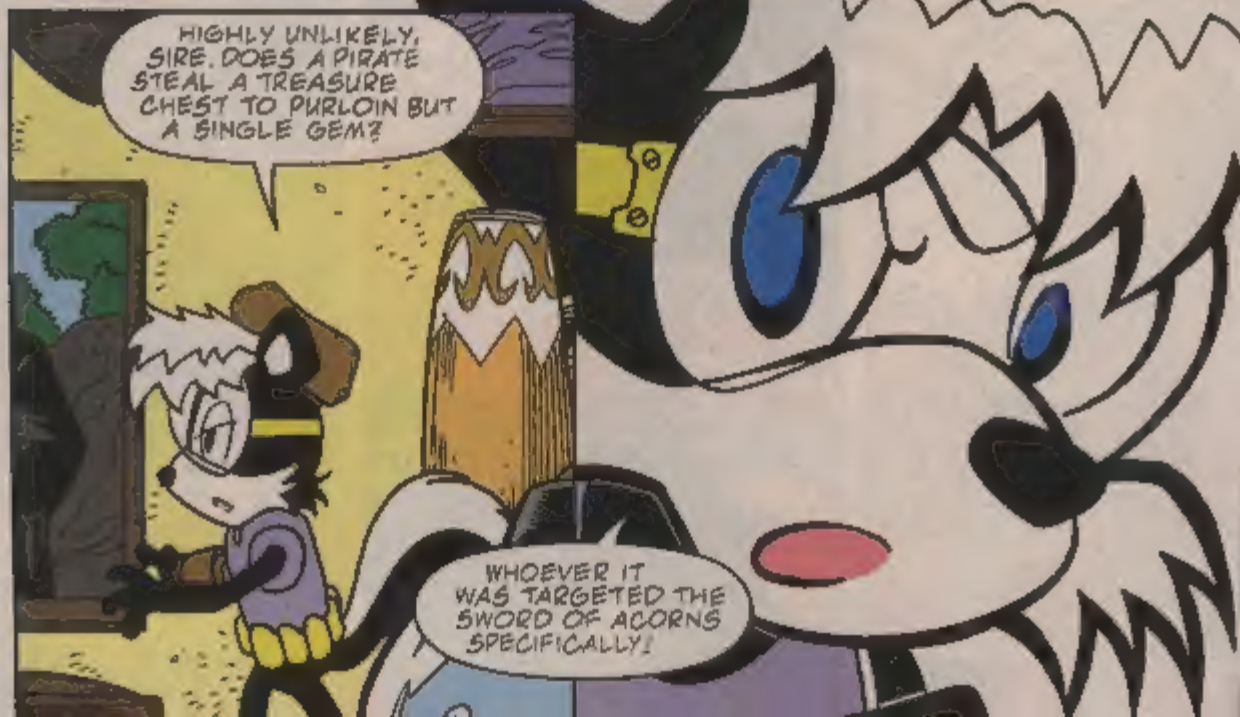
BAH! IT'S UNGRATIFYING IF HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE ME DO IT!

KLANK

KNOTHOLE KINGDOM...


I'M HAVING DIFFICULTY BELIEVING YOUR SECRET SERVICE WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED ANYONE ENTER OR EXIT, GEOFFREY!

COULD THE SWORD'S DISAPPEARANCE BE THE HANDIWORK OF THIEVES?


HIGHLY UNLIKELY, SIRE. DOES A PIRATE STEAL A TREASURE CHEST TO PURLOIN BUT A SINGLE GEM?
WHOEVER IT WAS TARGETED THE SWORD OF ACORNS SPECIFICALLY!

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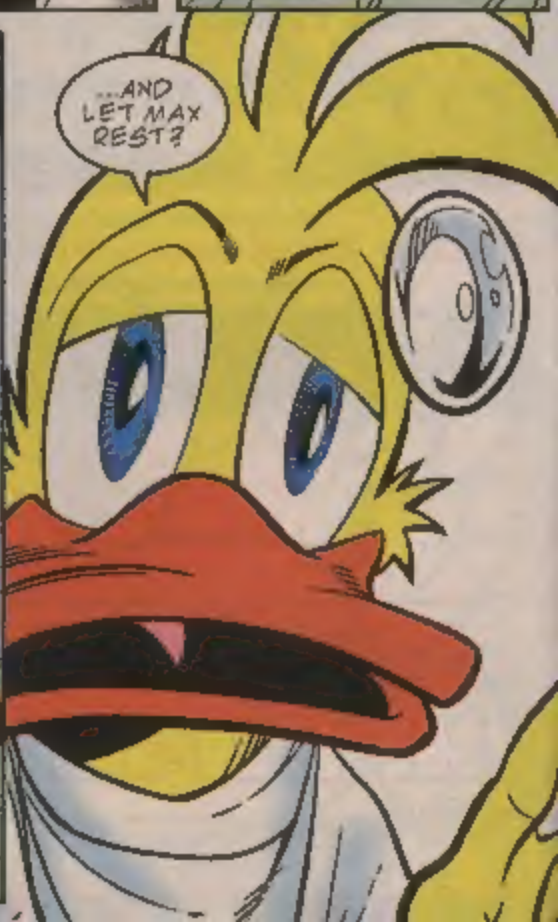
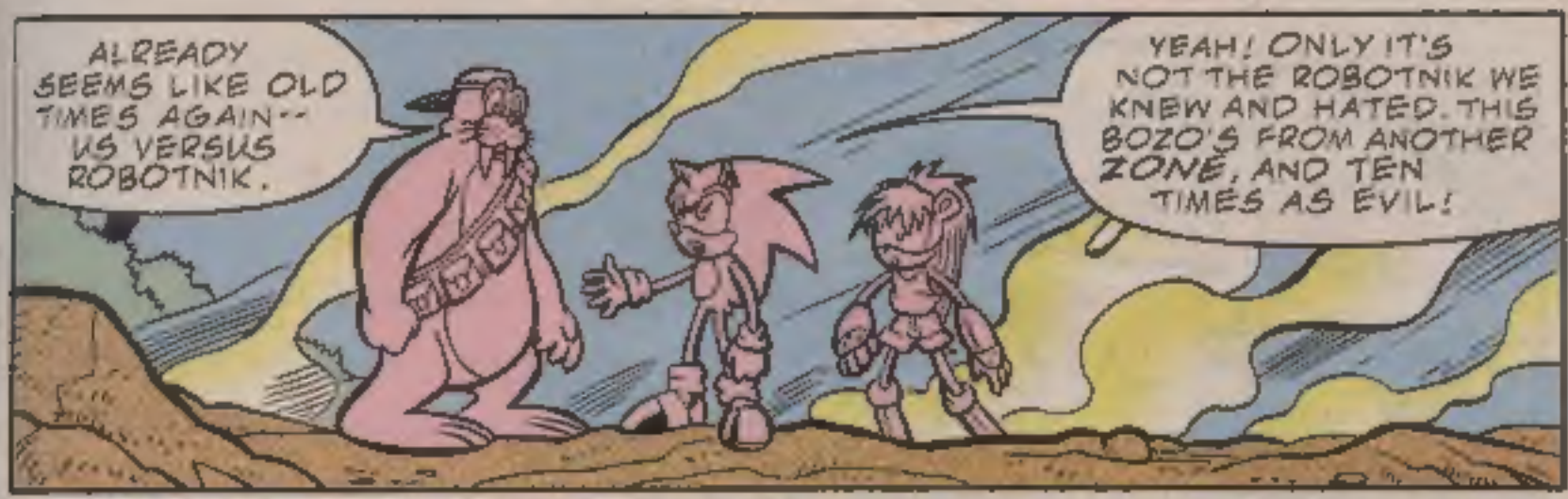
THE KNOTHOLE MEDICAL CENTER...
MY ENTIRE FAMILY HAS BEEN FINALLY REUNITED, ONLY TO LEARN THAT DAD HAS BEEN PARALYZED FROM THE WAIST DOWN...

MAX?!

NATE MORGAN?
I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD THE NEWS. HOW IS HE?
SLEEPING.

HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE GONE INTO BATTLE.
A BIT LATE FOR THAT, OLD-TIMER. WHY DON'T YOU AND SALLY SHOW THE QUEEN SOMEPLACE BESIDES THESE FOUR WALLS...


...AND LET MAX REST?

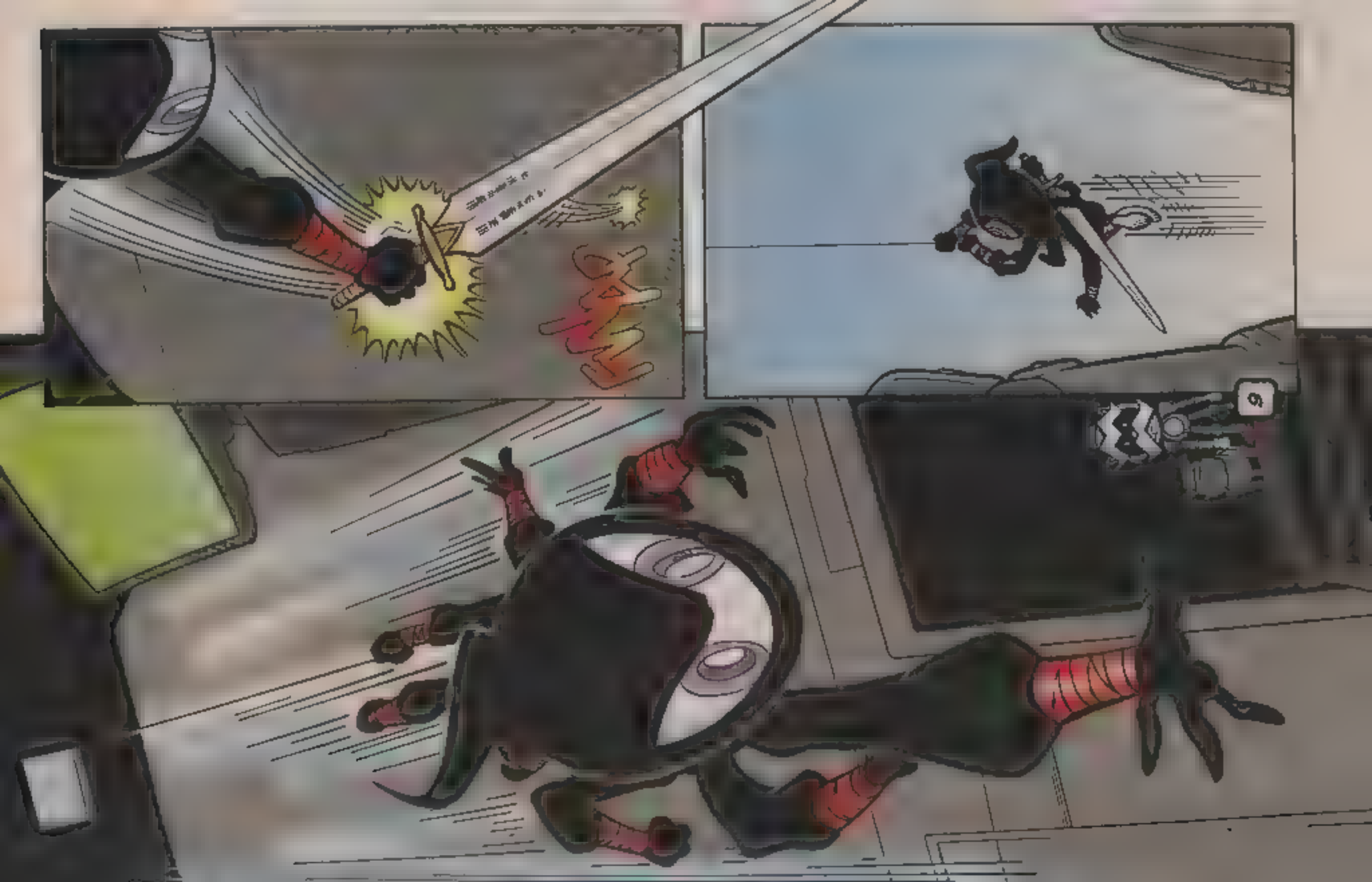

ALREADY SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES AGAIN-- US VERSUS ROBOTNIK.
YEAH! ONLY IT'S NOT THE ROBOTNIK WE KNEW AND HATED. THIS BOZO'S FROM ANOTHER ZONE, AND TEN TIMES AS EVIL!

YOU TWO HEAD BACK TO KNOTHOLE AY-SAP!

WHAT... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I LOST THE SWORD OF ACORNS TO THE EGGMAN...

...NOW IT'S MY DUTY TO GET IT BACK!
LET'S GO KIDDO...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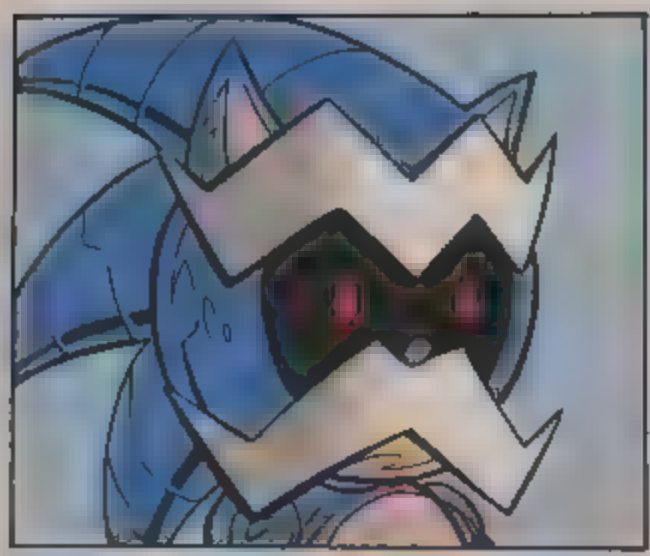
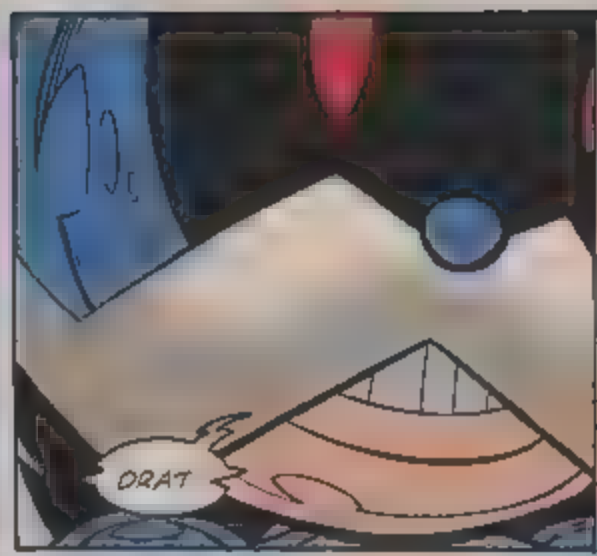
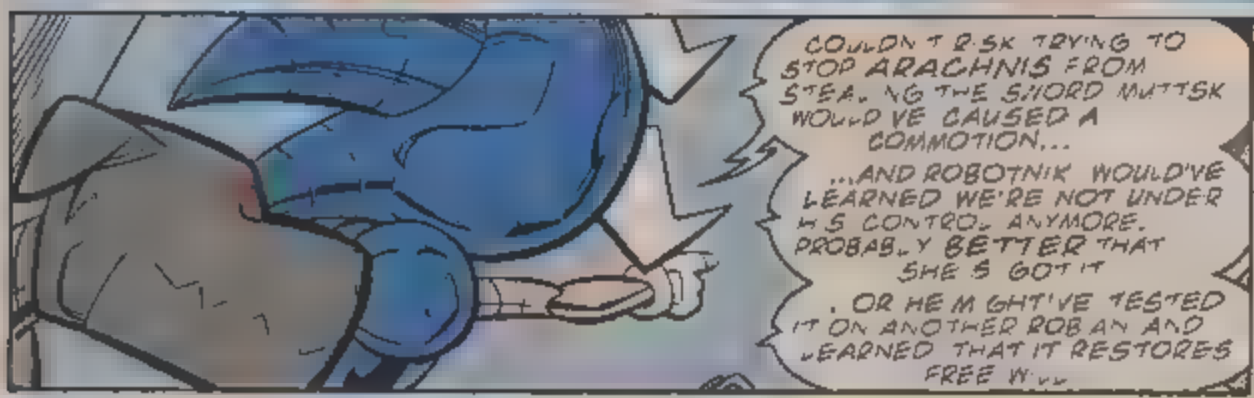
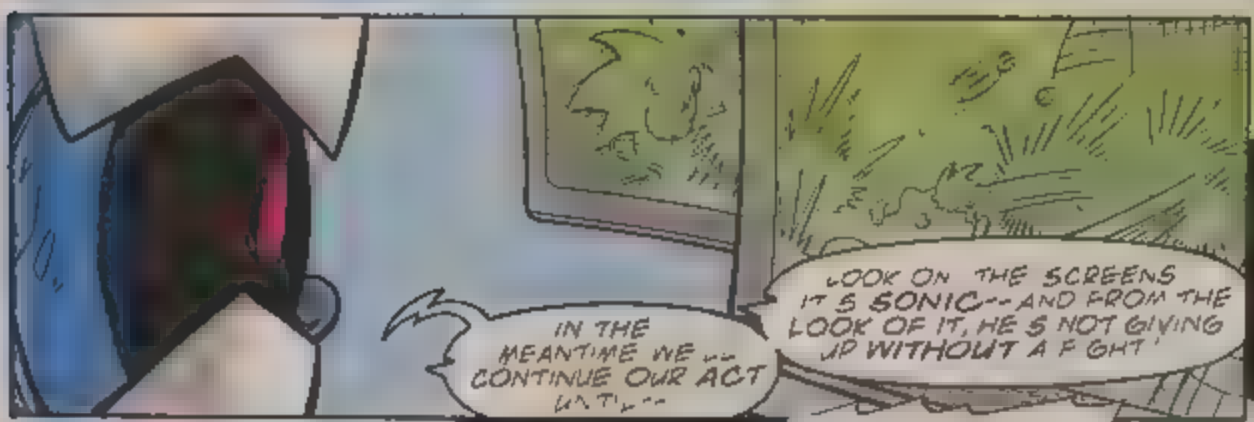
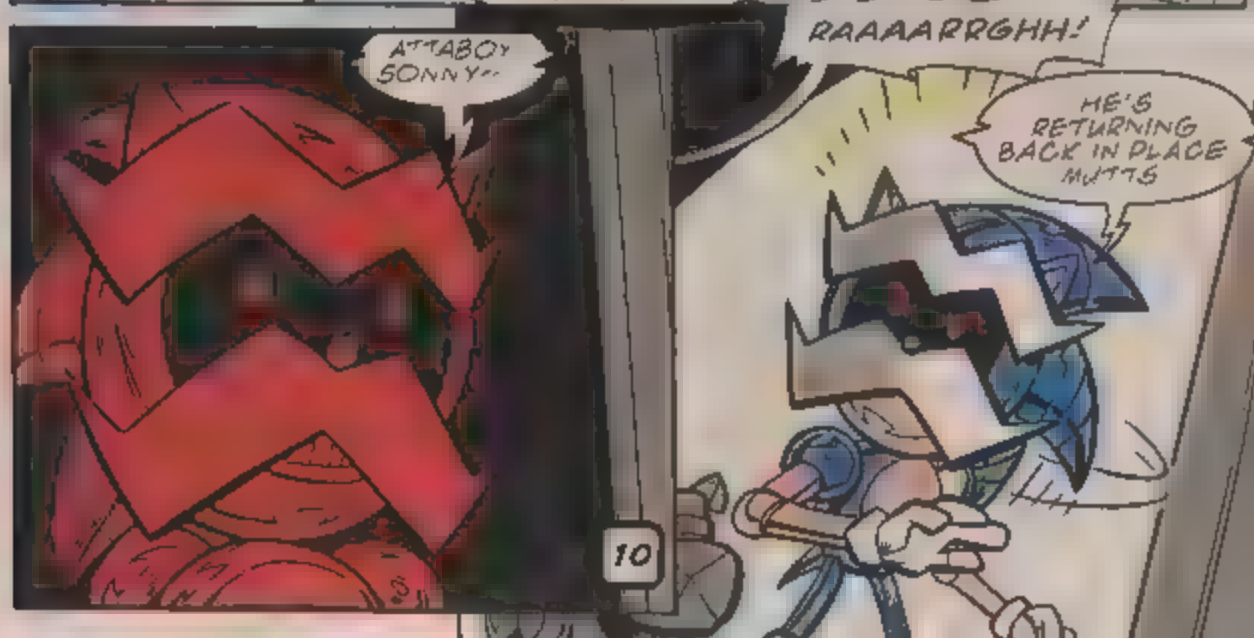



DRAT


COULDN'T RISK TRYING TO STOP ARACHNIS FROM STEALING THE SWORD MUTTSK WOULD'VE CAUSED A COMMOTION...
...AND ROBOTNIK WOULD'VE LEARNED WE'RE NOT UNDER HIS CONTROL ANYMORE. PROBABLY BETTER THAT SHE'S GOT IT
. OR HE MIGHT'VE TESTED IT ON ANOTHER ROBIAN AND LEARNED THAT IT RESTORES FREE WILL


LOOK ON THE SCREENS IT'S SONIC--AND FROM THE LOOK OF IT, HE'S NOT GIVING UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!
IN THE MEANTIME WE... CONTINUE OUR ACT


RAAAARRGHH!
HE'S RETURNING BACK IN PLACE MUTTS
ATTABOY SONNY--

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT WRETCHED RODENT?

DOESN'T HE KNOW WHEN HE'S BEEN BEAT? WASTING PRECIOUS TIME DESTROYING MY ROBOTIC TROOPS

IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO RECOVER AN OBJECT OF NO VALUE--

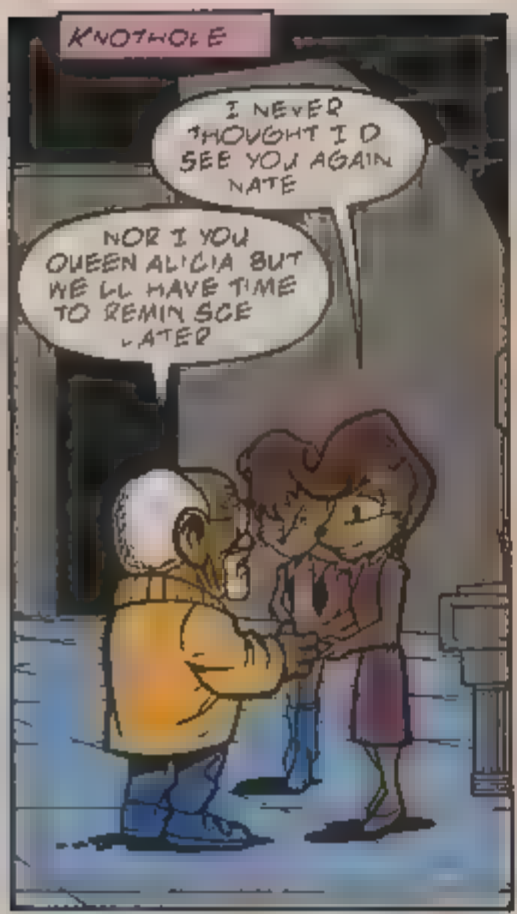
WHAT? OH NO IT'S MISSING!

WAIT. WHY AM I GETTING UPSET? THE SWORD DIDN'T WORK ANYWAY BUT SONIC NEEDN'T KNOW THAT

I'LL LET HIM BATTLE HIS LITTLE BLUE HEART OUT FOR A LOST CAUSE BUT WHY COMPROMISE SHADOW-BOTS IN THE PROCESS

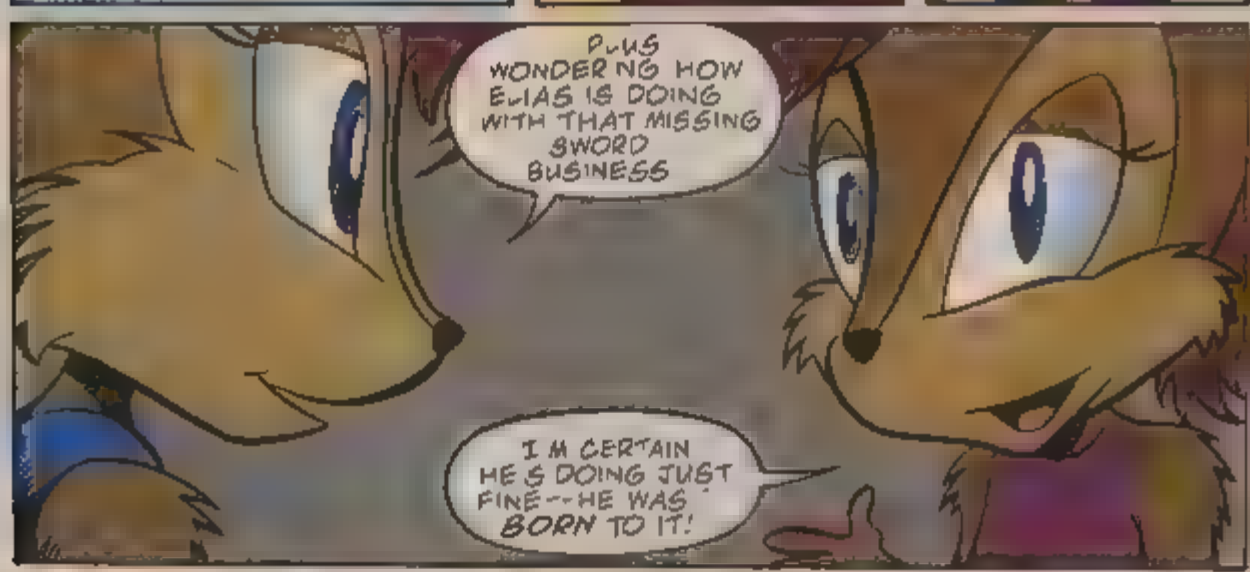
WHEN OTHERS CAN DO THE JOB?

HUH? THEY'RE LEAVING?!


KNOTHOLE
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN, NATE
NOR I YOU, QUEEN ALICIA, BUT WE'LL HAVE TIME TO REMINISCE LATER

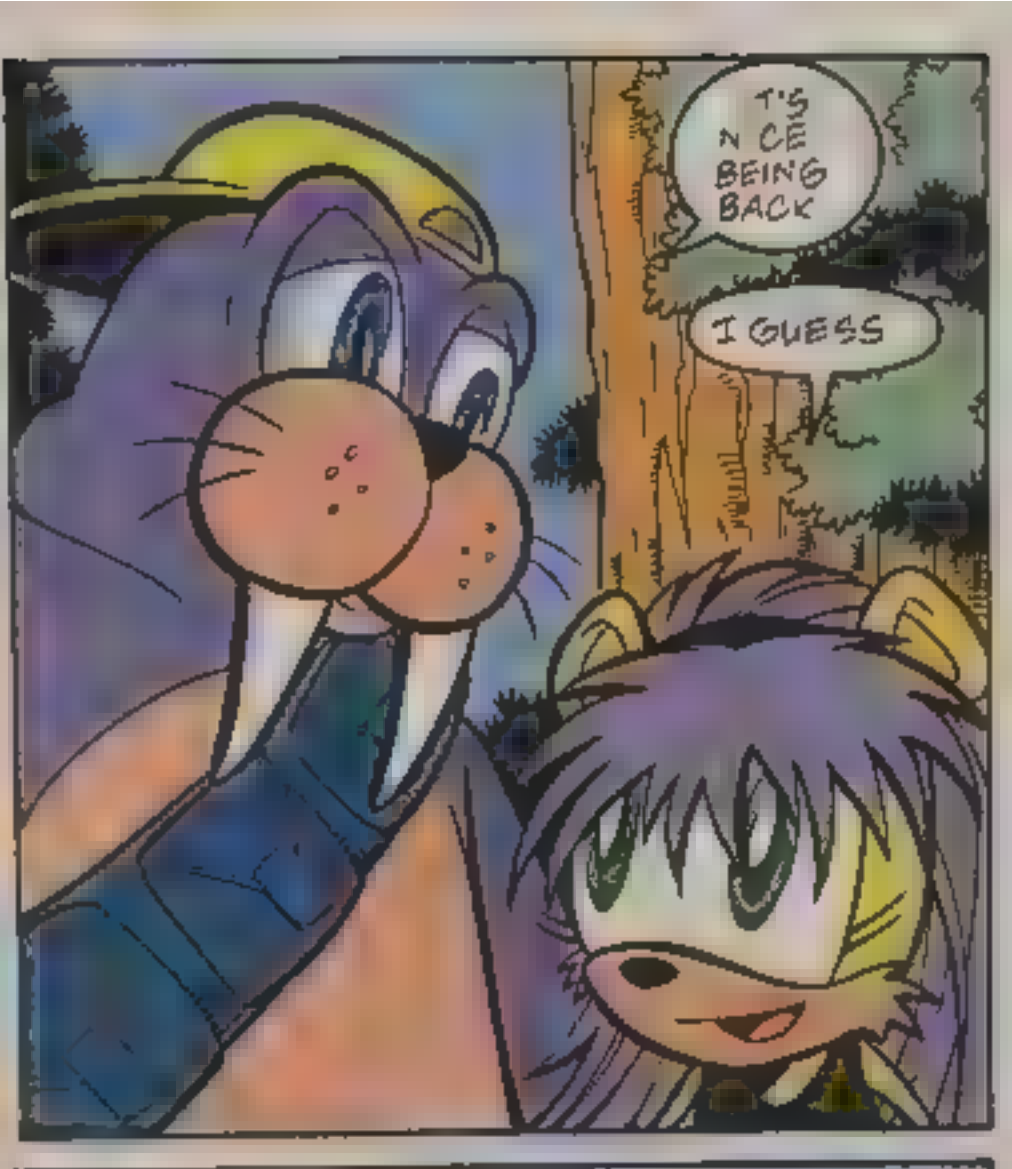
RIGHT NOW, I THINK YOU AND THE PRINCESS HAVE SOME CATCHING UP TO DO

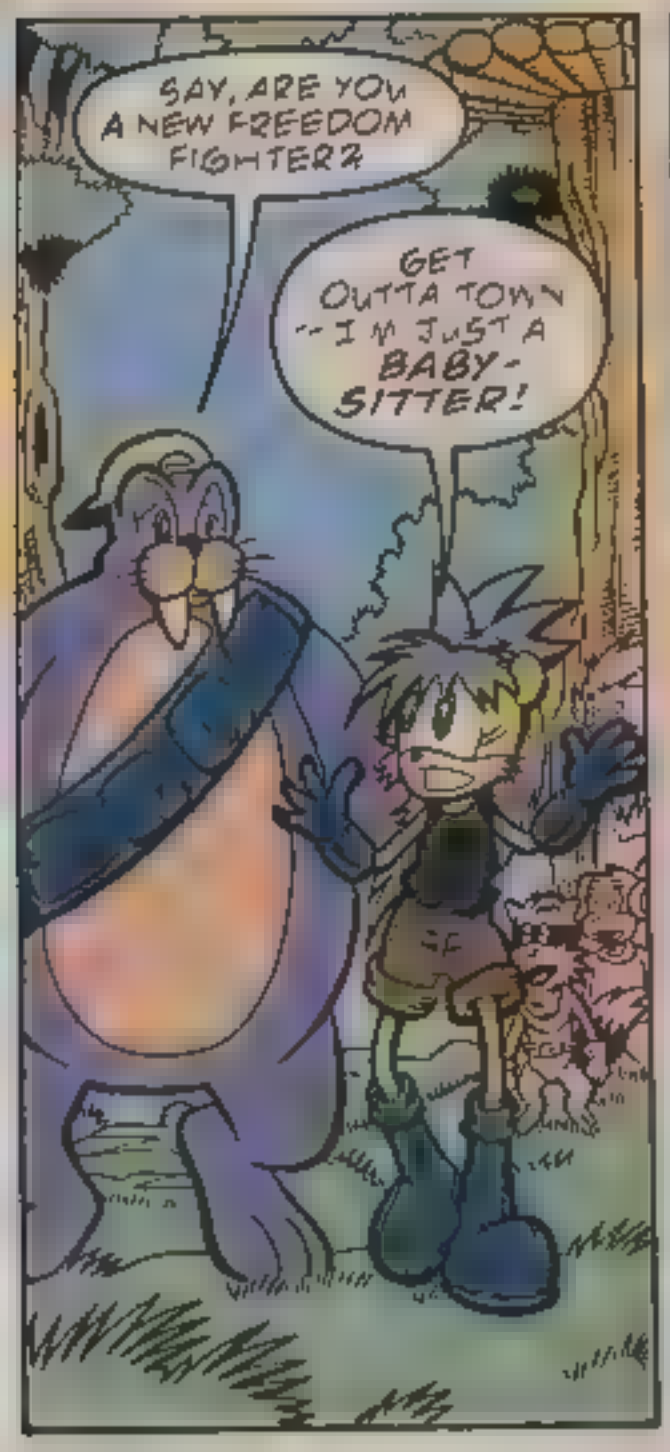
HE'S RIGHT, SALLY. BUT IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU? YOUR FATHER?
YES

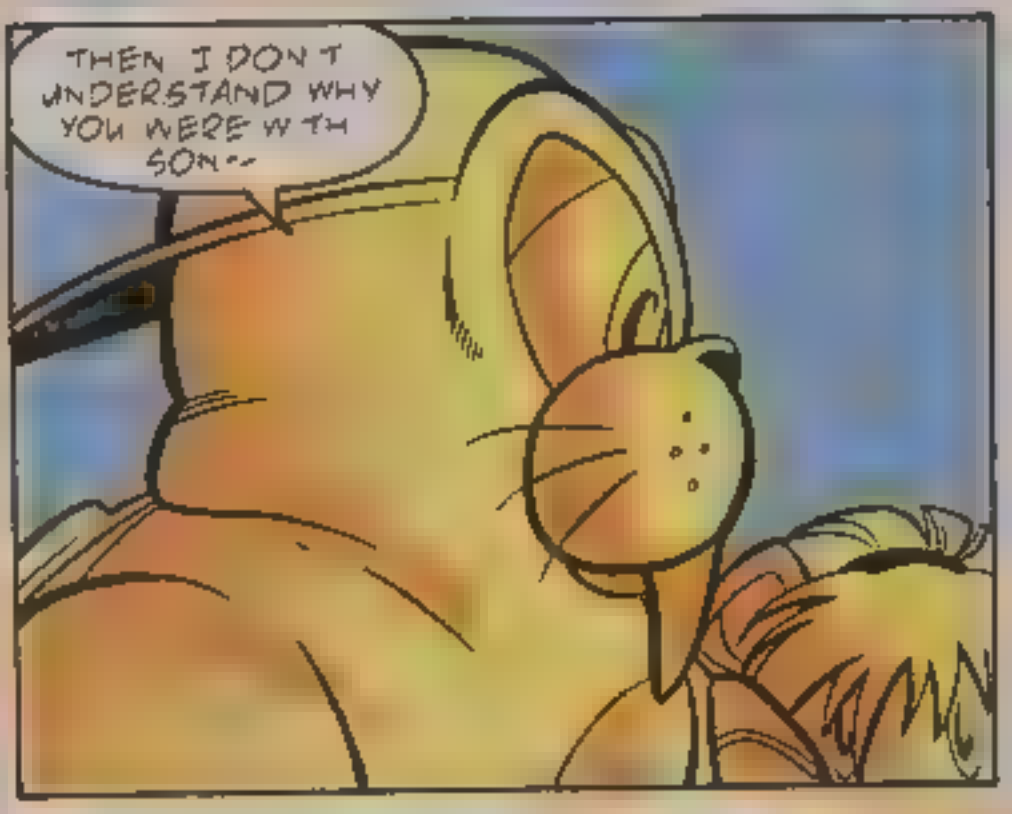

PLUS WONDERING HOW ELIAS IS DOING WITH THAT MISSING SWORD BUSINESS
I'M CERTAIN HE'S DOING JUST FINE--HE WAS BORN TO IT!

BORN TO IT. YES, BUT DEFINITELY NOT BRED

ELSEWHERE
SO EVERYBODY RELOCATED HERE AFTER ROBOTNIK INVADED?
YEP

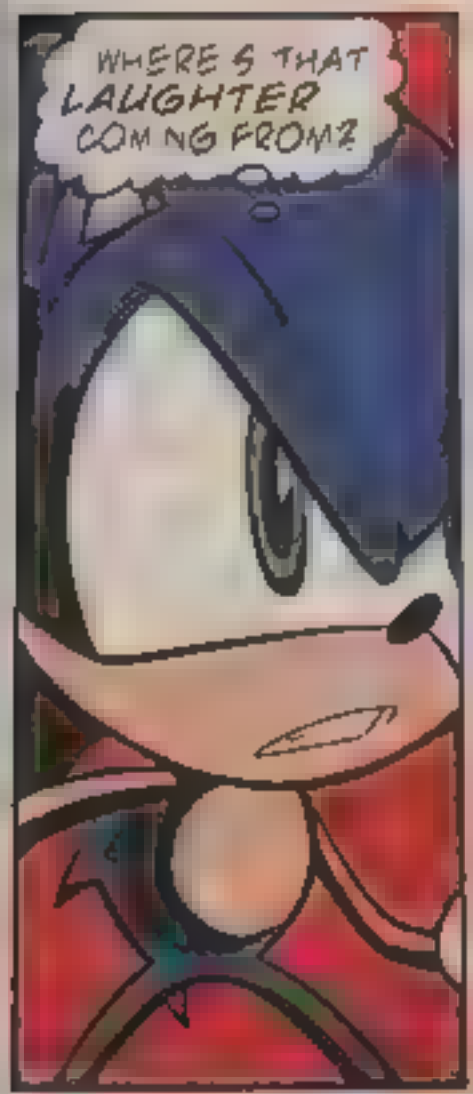

IT'S NICE BEING BACK
I GUESS

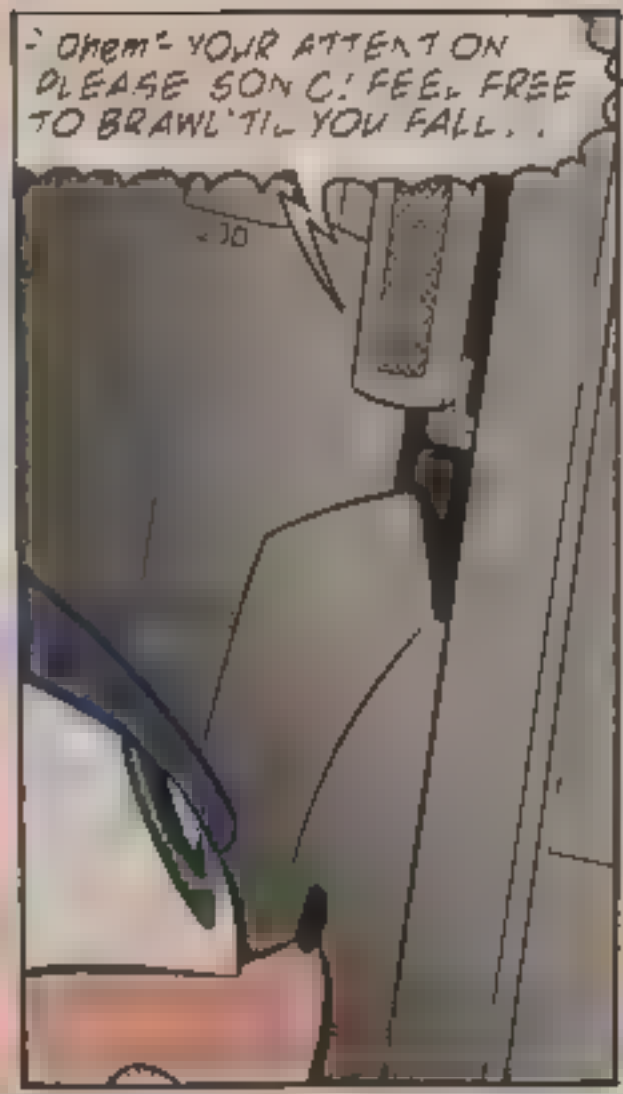

SAY, ARE YOU A NEW FREEDOM FIGHTER?
GET OUTTA TOWN --I'M JUST A BABY-SITTER!


THEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE WITH SON--

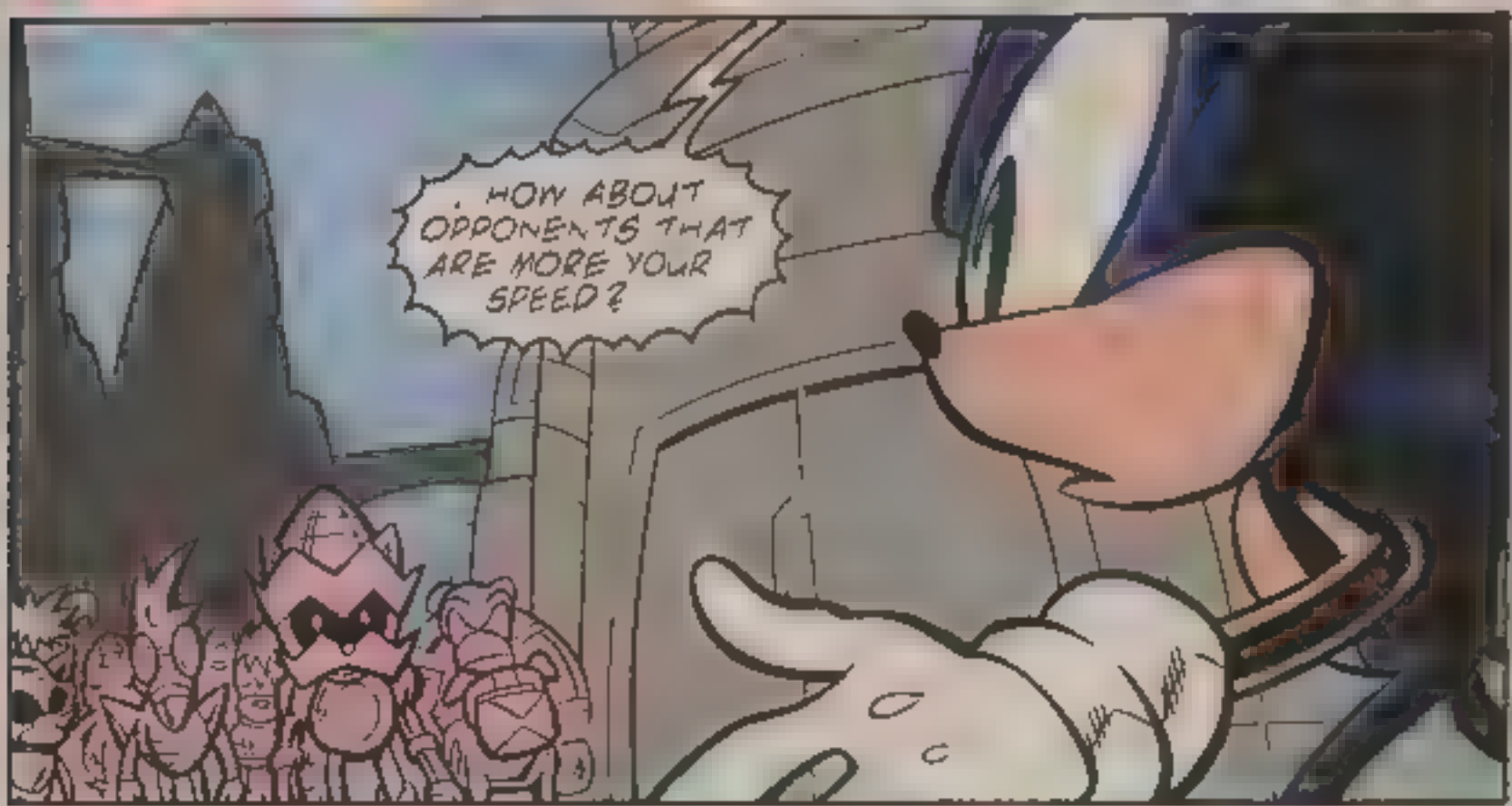
LOOK GEOFFREY ROTOR'S RETURNED

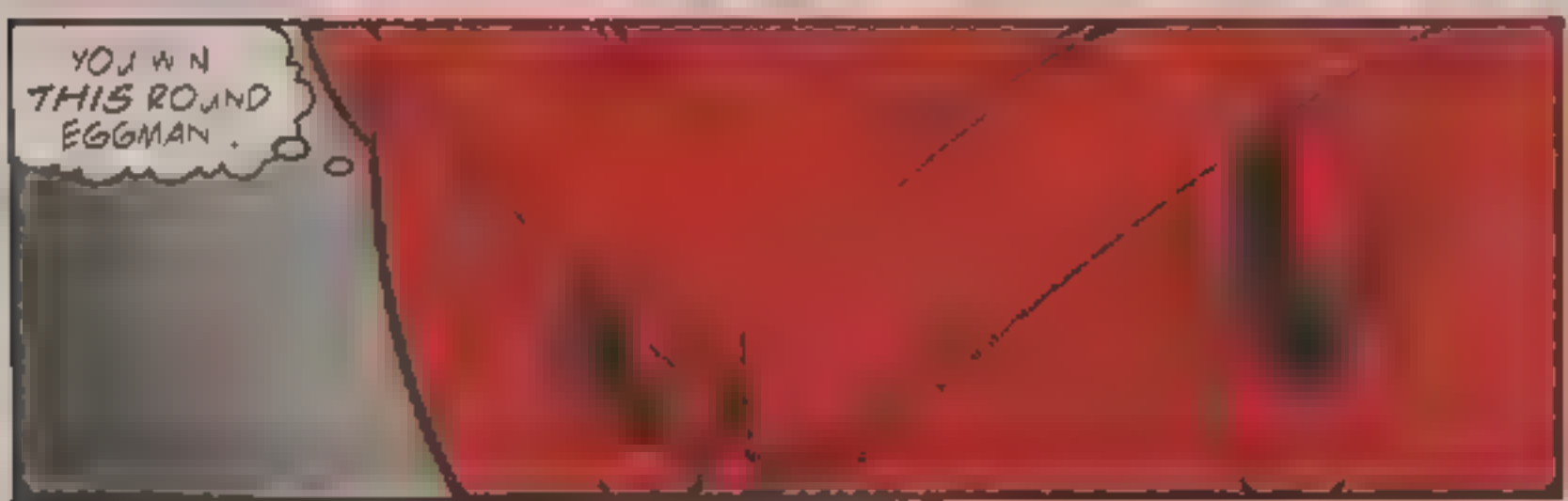
BENEATH THE STREETS OF ROBOTROPOLIS
RAT RAT
DO YOU GET IT? DUMB QUESTION. OF COURSE YOU GOT IT
WELL DON'T JUST STAND THERE--
--LEMME HAVE IT!
HA HA HA
14

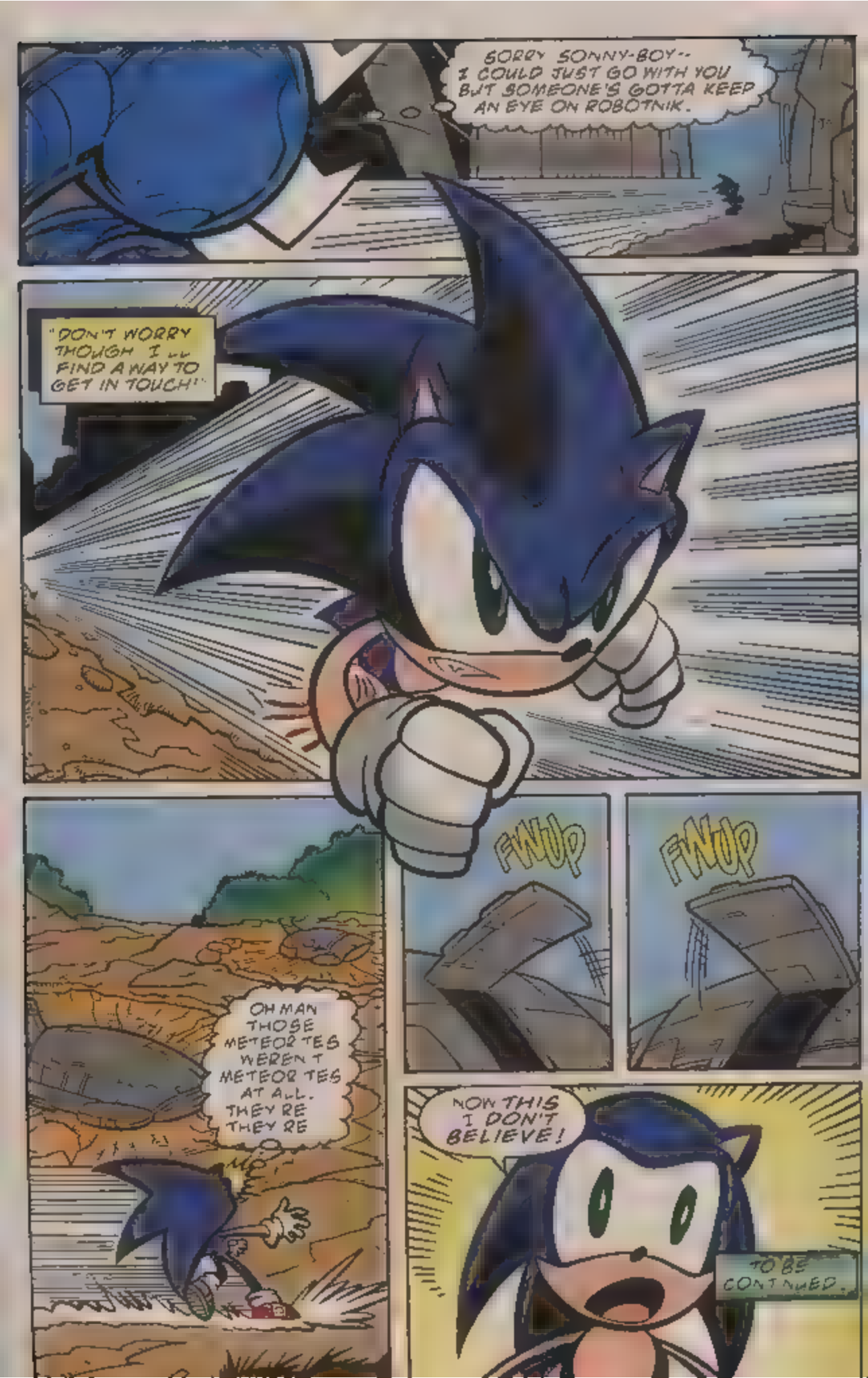

WHERE'S THAT LAUGHTER COMING FROM?


-Ohem!- YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE SONIC! FEEL FREE TO BRAWL 'TIL YOU FALL...

BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO EXHAUST MY SUPPLY OF SHADOW-BOTS INSTEAD.


HOW ABOUT OPPONENTS THAT ARE MORE YOUR SPEED?


YOU WIN THIS ROUND EGGMAN.


SORRY SONNY-BOY-- I COULD JUST GO WITH YOU BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA KEEP AN EYE ON ROBOTNIK.
"DON'T WORRY THOUGH I'LL FIND A WAY TO GET IN TOUCH!"
FWUP
FWUP
OH MAN THOSE METEOR TES WEREN'T METEOR TES AT ALL. THEY'RE THEY'RE
NOW THIS I DON'T BELIEVE!
TO BE CONTINUED.

Join Sonic and his friends in the ultimate party game!

SONIC SHUFFLE

- A new quest with Sonic and all his friends!
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THE SETTING: A WATERING HOLE OF ILL REPUTE! THE TIME: PRESENT DAY MOBIAN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS. WHAT'S GOING ON... NEED YOU ASK?

THEN THERE WAS THE JOB I WAS ESPECIALLY PROUD OF!

FASTEST SLICKER YOU EVER SAW

A BLUE HEDGEHOG, HE WAS!

BUT HE HADN'T EVER RUN INTO NACK THE WEASEL BEFORE

NEITHER HAVE I!

YOU SHOULD COME AROUND MORE OFTEN!

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PAM EKLUND- INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS- LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO- COLORIST
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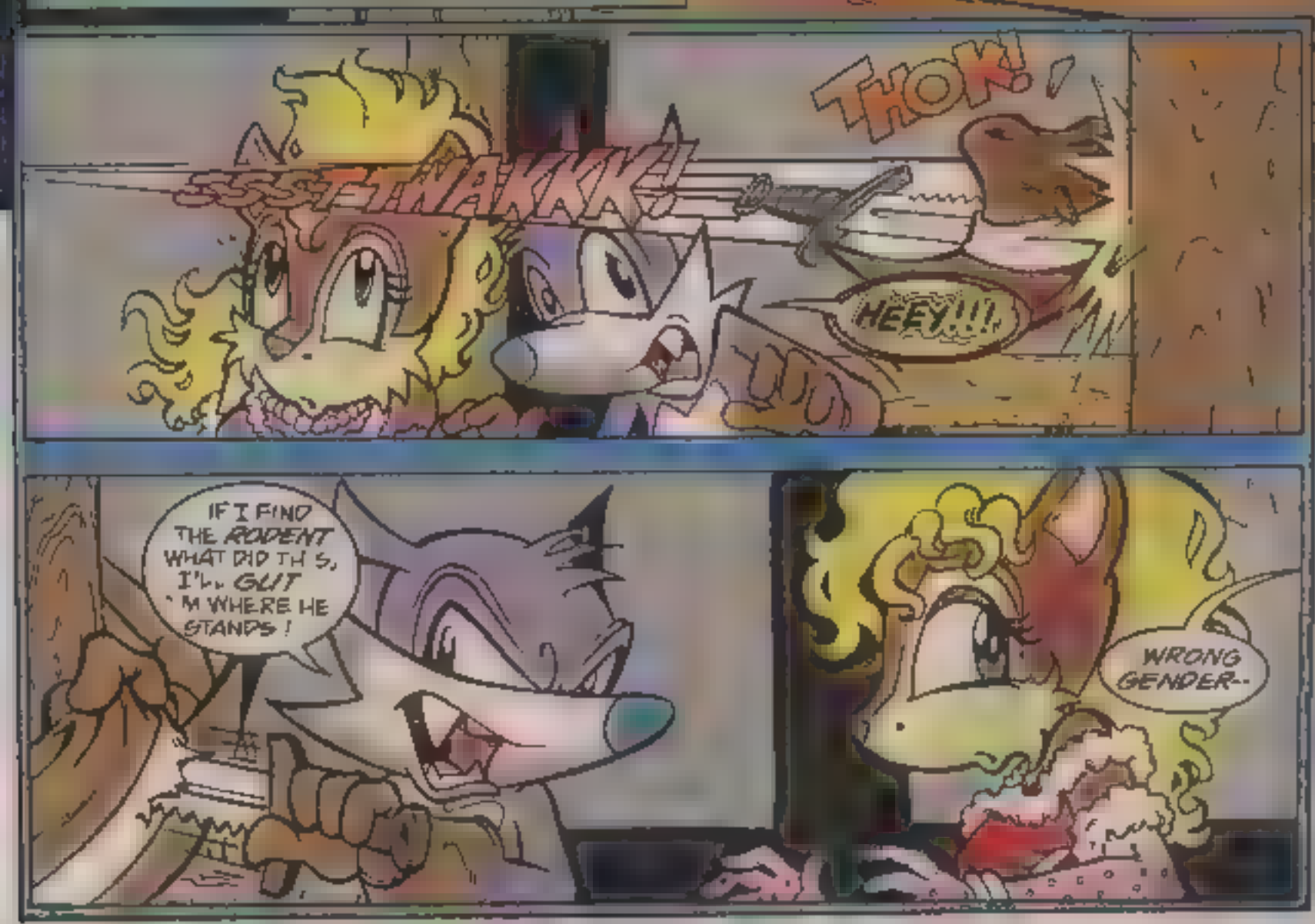
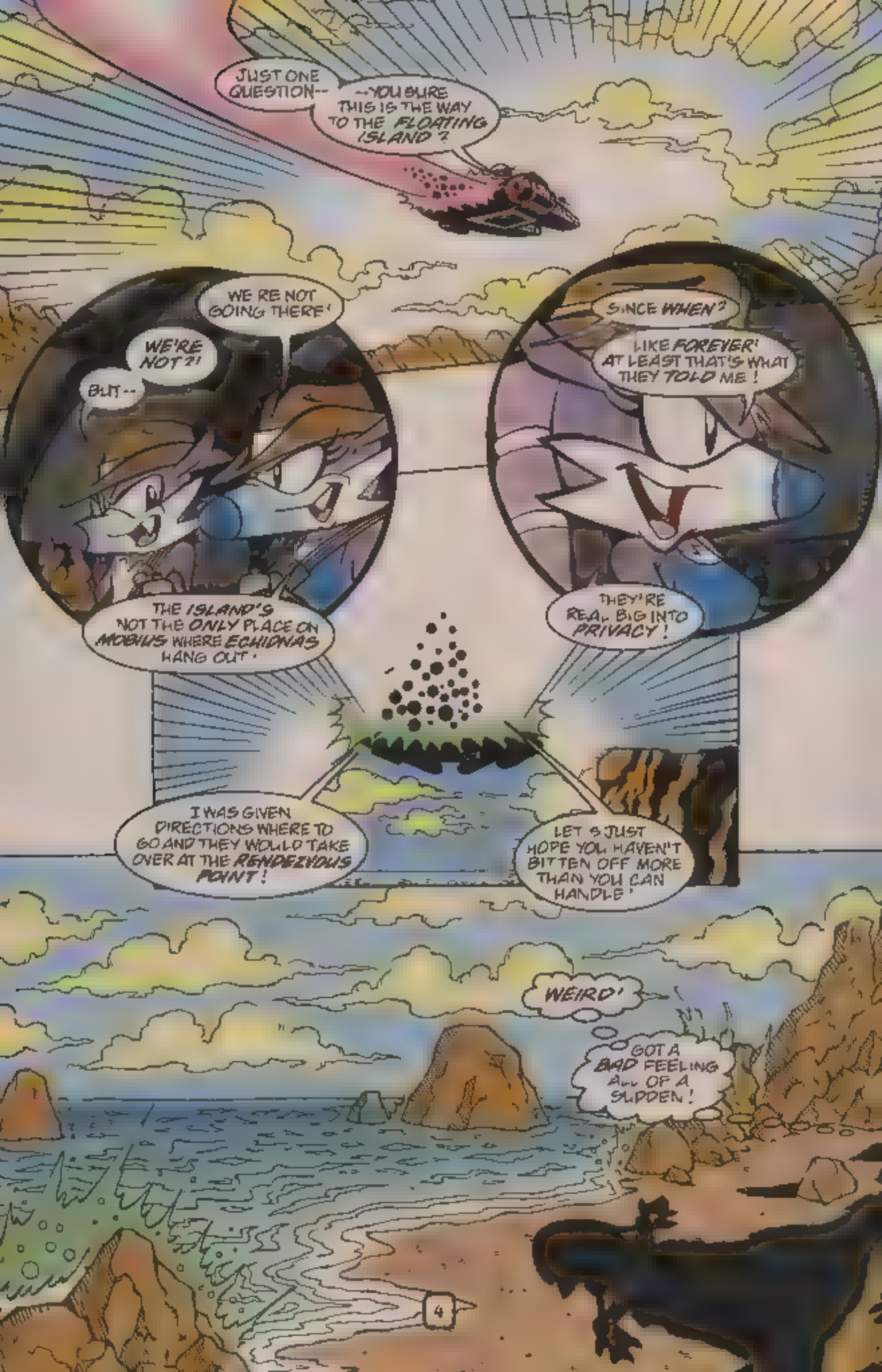


-AND I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!
NIC!!
YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT BEING MARRIED!
WHAT SORT OF GIRL DO YOU THINK I AM?
SHAAAP!!
BUT I'M NOT-- OOW!!
YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T TAKE A PADDLE TO YOU FOR THAT!
FORGET THE GIRL! I'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER!
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT!
WE'VE BEEN HIRED FOR A JOB!
"WE?" I WORK SOLO!
IF I COULD DO THIS ALONE, I WOULDN'T BE HERE, EITHER
WHO'S THE CATCH?
HIM!
AND THE REWARD IS A KING'S RANSOM!
SO, ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

SOMETHINGS NOT RIGHT, SIS!
THE ECHIDNAS AREN'T RENOWNED FOR INVOLVING OUTSIDERS WITH THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS!
SOMEONE'S HOLDIN' OUT ON YOU BIG TIME!
WHAT JOB DOESN'T COME WITH A BIT OF RISK, BRO?
NONE I EVER TOOK ON, THAT'S FOR SURE!
SO, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?
YOU BEEN HOLDIN' OUT ON ME, NIC!
WHEN DID YOU GET THIS PUPPY?
WHERE YOU BEEN? I'VE HAD THIS FOR MONTHS!
I GOT IT IN TRADE FROM AN OLD BOYFRIEND!
HANG ON TO YOUR KNICKERS!!
ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!!!
RRRROOAARRRR


JUST ONE QUESTION--
--YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO THE FLOATING ISLAND?
WE'RE NOT GOING THERE!
WE'RE NOT?!
BUT--
SINCE WHEN?
LIKE FOREVER! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME!
THE ISLAND'S NOT THE ONLY PLACE ON MOBIUS WHERE ECHIDNAS HANG OUT!
THEY'RE REALLY BIG INTO PRIVACY!
I WAS GIVEN DIRECTIONS WHERE TO GO AND THEY WOULD TAKE OVER AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT!
LET'S JUST HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE!
WEIRD!
GOT A BAD FEELING ALL OF A SUDDEN!

BIG DEAL!

LIKE THAT'S ANYTHING NEW

I'VE GONE FROM BEING GUARDIAN OF THE CHAOS EMERALD--

--AND MORPHED INTO A LIVING CHAOS EMERALD!

IS THIS WHAT DAD HAD IN MIND FOR ME WAY BACK WHEN?

TO BECOME LIKE DIMITRI?

WHAT A PLAN!

HATE TO THINK WHAT DAD'S OTHER OPTIONS WERE!

I JUST HOPE THERE'S SOME ANSWERS BACK ON THE FLOATING ISLAND--

HIRED GUNS

"WHEREVER IT IS!"
I DON'T GET IT!
THE COORDINATES THE ECHIDNAS GAVE ME ARE BEYOND THE ISLAND WE'RE PASSING OVER!
MAYBE IT'S A TEST TO SEE IF YOU'RE WORTH THE MONEY
BAD-NOOOM!
WE'RE BUCKING!
YOU SURE YOU KNOW HOW TO PILOT THIS THING?!
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING!!!
THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM HAS GONE AUTOMATIC!!
YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH, NICK?!
AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT SO SURE
HEY! THAT HUNK A DIRT WASN'T THERE A SECOND AGO
ATTENTION, BOUNTY-ONE!! THIS IS ALBION FLIGHT CONTROL!!
WE HAVE ASSUMED CONTROL OF YOUR VEHICLE--
AND ARE NOW SENDING THE DATA INTO YOUR SYSTEM TO BRING YOU IN NICE AND SMOOTH!
HAPPY LANDINGS-- AND WELCOME TO ALBION!
RIGHT ON THE MONEY! THESE GUYS DON'T MESS AROUND!
JUST REMEMBER, THEY CAME TO ME FIRST!
WHOOOSH!

NICE SET-UP YOU HAVE HERE!

I DON'T IMAGINE YOU GET MANY VISITORS

VERY RARELY.

YOUR SISTER WOULD BE HERE IF MATTERS WEREN'T SO URGENT!

NOW THEN--

IF YOU'LL TAKE A SEAT WE CAN BEGIN

A CLIENT WHO SKIPS THE CHIT-CHAT AND GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS IS SOMEONE WITH ME!

I LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE, MISTER WEASEL!

THE PORTAL YOU JUST WITNESSED KNUCKLES ENTER WAS NOT ARTIFICIALLY CREATED--

-- BUT RATHER SELF-GENERATED!

--SO WE'LL DISPENSE WITH THE SOCIAL AMENITIES AND GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!

ON THE SCREEN BEFORE YOU IS THE ECHIDNA KNOWN AS KNUCKLES ON HIS OWN AT THE AGE OF FIFTEEN!

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WE KNOW OF WHERE HE MANIFESTED SUCH ABILITIES!

MONTHS LATER KNUCKLES WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE AND SUBJECTED TO SOME UNUSUAL TESTS--

--WITH UNEXPECTED RESULTS!
KNUCKLES LATENT ABILITIES WERE NOW FULLY ACTIVE EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NOT COGNIZANT OF THAT FACT!
RECENTLY, KNUCKLES LEFT US UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HASTENED FURTHER MUTATION--
MAKING HIM A DANGER TO ANY HE COMES INTO CONTACT WITH!
SO, ARE YOU AS TO TAKE HIM OUT?
ONLY AS A LAST RESORT!
WE'D MUCH PREFER HE BE RETURNED TO US SO WE CAN DEAL WITH HIS PROBLEM!
WE'LL DOUBLE THE BONUS IF YOU DO BRING HIM BACK ALIVE!
THINK THEY'RE UP TO THE TASK GALA-NA?
THEY'RE JUST THE SMOKESCREEN MYKOL!
THEY LEAD US TO KNUCKLES--
--ONLY THEN WILL WE DIRTY OUR HANDS!
NEXT: THE BIG CAT AND MOUSE! (WHERE NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS)

SONIC-GRAMS

Next issue:

The mystery of the space vessels— revealed! And the Blue Blur isn't sure he's quite ready for a close encounter of this kind! That's okay, though, because the vessel's inhabitants aren't quite sure if they're ready for him, either! All this, plus Monkey Khan returns. But this time, is the Robotnik-created simian cyborg Sonic's friend...or foe? Don't miss a titanic tale we could only title "The Wrath of Khan!" Written by Karl Bollers, penciled by Michael Higgins, with inks by Jim Amash and Pam Eklund! And don't miss a special SONIC SHUFFLE story based on the new Sega Dreamcast game. It is written by Ken Penders, penciled by Ron Lim, with inks by Jim Amash.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

#92

THIS JUST IN!

J.F. GABRIE
Editor

As it mentions above, we are interrupting our regularly scheduled Knuckles story to bring you a story of immense proportions. At least it is immense for the inhabitants of a place called Maginary World. Someone or something is destroying this world, and Sonic The Hedgehog is being asked to help by a fairy known only as Lumina. It is a pre-adaptation to the new Sega Dreamcast game, SONIC SHUFFLE, on sale in stores now. The action starts next issue and continues in the game. It's up to you to help Sonic and his friends succeed in their task. Check it out! Next issue's letters page brings the return of the infamous strip by creators Michael Gallagher and Dave Manak. I for one have missed it terribly and can't wait to read a new funny again.

Thanks Sonic fans.

Your editor on the flip side...

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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

Hey, kids and used-to-be-kids, Sonic-Grams received so much mail from you, we decided to print some:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

Wow! Okay, Sonic the Hedgehog is way past cool! It is hard to believe that I've been a Sonic fan since I was seven years old back in 1992. That was when I watched the TV series, with his roboticized parents and the freedom fighters. But then I moved and started to watch a different SONIC cartoon, with Robotnik in a desert. After that show stopped airing, I discovered the SONIC comic. A friend had bought it and I haven't seen that issue ever since. Then, right before Christmas of 1999, I spotted a totally new SONIC TV show that featured Sonic with a green hedgehog brother (Manic) and pink hedgehog sister (Sonia). Finally, the SEGA Dreamcast game system came out with SONIC ADVENTURE, and now I realize how old Sonic is. Yet, everyone still loves him.
1) Could you tell me who created the Sonic games (I think he may have debuted back in 1985 on a SEGA Gamegear system, but I'm not sure)? 2) How old is Sonic in the comic? 3) Has he gotten older since it began, like a birthday? Just a quick segue: I bought my very first Sonic comic last December. I now own issues #79-84, soon I'll have up through #88, and I hope to keep collecting the series. I ordered issue #1 so I could get a feel for the older back-issues. I guess I always get my comics at the right time, because #79 is the issue before the SEGA adaptation began. My favorite Sonic character was Amy before she aged, but I understand your reasons for aging her. 4) Is Amy Sonic's sister or cousin? 5) When did Sonic get his yellow shoe
buckles? Hey, it's a big improvement on his look! It's great! Sonic's new Dreamcast version is super! Just a few more questions, and then I'll let you go. 6) Why does Robotnik have so many names? I mean, eggman...Julian... Anyways, you guys are doing a great job. I'm glad you still answer questions on the letters' page. I think people like hearing responses to their letters. 7) Do you think you could just have a questions and answers page sometime? Just a suggestion. Anyway, I talk (well, write) too much. Gotta juice!

Sarah Durocher,(age 15)

Thanks for taking us on a lovely trip down memory lane, Sarah. Your letter neatly sums up Sonic's popularity and longevity! Good work! Now, on to your questions: 1) The Sonic games were created by video game producer Yuji Naka. 2) Sonic was fifteen years old when the comic started, but he is now sixteen. 3) His birthday was in issue #68. 4) Amy isn't a relative of Sonic's, just a fan! But she is related to Rob o' the Hedge, who appeared alongside Knuckles in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG issues #88-90. 5) Sonic got his yellow buckles in issue #71. 6) We guess just one name wasn't enough for him! Sheesh! 7) That's an awesome idea, Sarah— so awesome, in fact, that one of our upcoming letter pages will consist entirely of Q&A's! Thanks for the suggestion!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

My daughter "Radical" Rosy (age 7) and I (age 35) enjoy the Sonic comic books a great deal. The art is always vibrant and the stories are always intense. Keep up the good work! Here are a few suggestions to make the book even more enjoyable— Me: more Big the Cat. I like the big guy and hope to see more of him soon. Rosy: More Knuckles. With his own title canceled, she hopes Rad Red will be a regular part of the Sonic comics. Finally, we're both confused by some of the characters who pop up from time to time in the comics. Who are they? When did they meet Blue Blur or Rad Red? How are they related to the other characters? Maybe a "family tree" or a flash-back issue to explain who's who would help

Mike and Rosy Griffith
Gouldsboro, PA

We think that our comics are a wonderful way for parents to bond with their kids, Mike. We're glad you and Rosy appreciate our monthly efforts. We've got bad news for you, but good news for her, though— don't expect Big anytime soon, but by now you should know that KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA is a regular back-up feature in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG! A family tree doesn't sound like such a bad idea, since family has always been one of the book's central themes. Perhaps we'll devote a page from an upcoming issue to a family tree.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

You've got a great comic! Keep it up! I, like most other people, have a few questions about the series. 1) Will Lupe ever be deroboticized and restored to normal? (Please, say yes!) 2) Will Queen Alicia ever wake up? Last time we saw her, her stasis tube only had a week's power left. Something's gonna happen, right? 3) Since Sally chose not to be heir to the throne and Elias doesn't want to be heir, what's left? That's all for now. Thanks!

Nick Hardin
St. Mary's, GA

1) You've gotta keep hope alive, Nick! 2) Something did happen— Queen Alicia awoke from her decade-long slumber in issue #89! 3) We'll tell ya what's left— as of last issue, Elias became acting ruler (like it or not).

Dear Sonic crew,

I've been Sonic's numero uno fan since issue #47 (my nickname is even 'Sonic'), and I think it's time that Sonic and Sally hooked up! I know a lot of people would agree with me! How old is Amy Rose? Pleeeeeeze print this letter! Oh, yeah, anybody who agrees with me about Sonic and Sally should write in, too!

Jeff 'Sonic' Pennington
Hugeston, WV

We'd keep a very close watch on Sally and Sonic's star-crossed relationship over this next year, if we were you, Jeff! Amy Rose used to be eight years old, but now she's twelve— my, but she's grown!

Well, that's it, gang! Thanks for all your letters, and be sure to be here next month when we print some more of them! Until then, just do your best and...

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

Cover illustration by Patrick Spaziante and Ken Penders with colors and separations by Josh D. Ray.

EVA RICHARTE
BARCELONA, SPAIN

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